

In the Claims

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14. (Amended)

A method of identifying a nucleotide sequence which encodes upon expression an expansin protein comprising:  
obtaining a cDNA fragment having greater than about 70% sequence similarity to SEQ ID: 1;  
using said fragment to identify similar nucleotide sequences suspected to encode a protein with  
expansin activity by a hybridization or PCR based assay; and thereafter  
assaying the protein encoded by said identified sequence for expansin activity.

B6  
15. (Amended)

The method of claim 14 wherein said fragment is a PCR primer.

16. (Amended)

The method of claim 14 wherein said fragment is a hybridization probe.

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18 (Amended)

B7  
A method of identifying a nucleotide sequence which encodes upon expression an expansin protein comprising:  
obtaining a cDNA fragment which encodes an amino acid sequence having greater than about  
70% sequence similarity to SEQ ID NOS: 2-6;  
using said fragment to identify similar nucleotide sequences through a hybridization or PCR  
based assay; and thereafter  
assaying the protein encoded by said sequence for expansin activity.

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B8  
20. (Amended)

A method of identifying a nucleotide sequence which encodes upon expression an expansin protein comprising:  
designing a primer to amplify expansin encoding DNA wherein said primer has greater than  
about 70% sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO: 2;  
amplifying a cDNA fragment from said primer,

screening a cDNA library to identify a full length coding sequence of an expansin protein.

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